

## RESOLUTION #6

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ORGANIZING CONFERENCE,  
STRATHMORE, CALIFORNIA,  
DECEMBER 2-3, 1961

### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Preamble: Of all God's material gifts to man, the land is the most precious, the most universal; and the most everlasting. The land should draw men together, not divide them from each other. Those who work on the land should be united. We work on the land. We are resolved to be united by our work, and by our love of the land and its wonderful bounty.

Article 1: Agricultural workers can be and will be organized.

Article 2: Our goals are the same things all people everywhere are entitled to: a decent income; fair working conditions; equal opportunities; civic and political participation; legal protections; respect, justice, dignity, and freedom.

Article 3: We are organizing a farm workers' union because we believe a union is the best way to reach the goals we desire.

Article 4: By "organizing," we mean that we are bringing together grass-roots groups of individuals who know and trust each other, and who work together on the problems that they have in common.

Article 5: By "farm workers", we mean everyone who works for wages on a farm or ranch. Our union will not be prejudiced in favor of any type of crops or agricultural activities.

Article 6: Our union must demand and practice equal rights at all times for all agricultural workers, without discrimination based on race, culture, language, religion, sex, age, or citizenship.

Article 7: We are working for a democratic union. A union should express the will of its members, not just its officers. Our members shall be encouraged to speak freely on all the issues affecting them and their union. Minority opinion shall be preserved and protected. All major decisions shall be made by the membership. Whenever possible, such decisions -- including union elections -- should involve meaningful choices.

Article 8: Our union shall be honest and open, and shall have all the integrity we can build into it. It must continually earn the confidence of its members and the general public.

Article 9: We believe our organizing methods are as important as our goals. We shall use methods which are consistent with our ideals of democracy, justice, equal opportunity, dignity, and freedom.

Article 10: In the early stages of building our union, we need the help of other unions. But, for the most part, we farm workers must organize ourselves. Nobody can or should do it for us. We deserve a union of our own, and we are capable of directing and supporting it. We are the largest group of industrial workers in the United States, and we are not willing to lose our identity.



Article 11: We will accept assistance from anyone, if it is based on an understanding of, and agreement with, our principles. We do not seek the help of those whose principles are contrary to our own. We shall not cooperate with groups such as the following:

- a. Those which would divide farm workers against each other, along lines of crop, area, skill, and so forth.
- b. Those which practice racial or other forms of discrimination.
- c. Those with a record of financial dishonesty.
- d. Those whose organizing methods involve "sweetheart" contracts, or other anti-democratic techniques.
- e. Those which encourage the use of terror or violence.
- f. Those which support any type of totalitarianism.
- g. Those which are trying to expand their labor empire.

Article 12: We believe in a union of farm workers, by farm workers, and for farm workers. We would rather continue working for such a goal, slowly and patiently, than have the wrong kind of union created, overnight, by the wrong methods.

Adopted unanimously,  
Agricultural Workers Organizing Conference,  
Strathmore, California,  
December 3, 1961

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